Status update for WG164 Informed Visibility Data Provisioning Improvements

August 19, 2014

Work Group #164 Approved Issue Statement

The mailing industry has become more reliant upon timely availability of Informed Visibility data. When combined with Intelligent Mail barcode tracing data, it provides a more effective way to manage mailing campaigns which in turn, improves the overall value of mail. Unfortunately, the current distribution path for Informed Visibility data has inherent delays of 24 to 96 hours, thus rendering the information not (or at least less) "actionable".

USPS Co-Leader: Himesh Patel **(himesh.a.patel@usps.gov)**
Industry Co-Leader: Mark Rheaume (**mark@accuzip.com**)

- Work Group #164 Status Update:
  - Initial meeting held on August 5, 2014
    - Weekly meetings held since on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 PM (EST)
    - Work Group #164 working toward completion date of October 31, 2014
    - Next meeting scheduled for August 26, 2014
- Work Plan defined to focus on four "focus" areas
  - Container Visibility – Provisioned through PostalOne! - In scope going forward
  - Handling Unit – Provisioned through PostalOne! - In scope going forward
  - Bundle Visibility – Provisioned through IMb Tracing and PostalOne! - Out of scope going forward
  - Piece Level – Provisioned through IMb Tracing - Out of scope going forward

- Why were two determined to be "Out of scope"?

  - Bundle Visibility – Out of scope

    - Both data provisioning mechanisms were discussed – IMb Tracing and PostalOne!

    - The group indicated that bundle visibility was more synergistic with piece level information and was a better fit for UG4

  - Piece Level – Out of scope

    - The group indicated that the data was being provisioned in a "timely" manner and decided that this group did not need to focus in this area.

    - Some group members indicated a recurrence of latency issues in IMb Tracing data and work group leadership offered to coordinate a review of the issue(s) separately

- Initial determinations and thoughts:
  - The group indicated that for the data to be valuable to the mailing industry, container scans must be provisioned sooner than piece-level data
    - This data is critical as a "proof of delivery" for mailers/industry
  - Group recognizes the improvements that ACS has made in improving the timeliness of ACS information and suggested that this work group look how this was achieved
  - Group asked for data model/flowcharts for each work plan focus area showing what systems capture and handle mail visibility data to see the handoffs and the associated latencies
  - Group leadership will invite SMEs from key USPS data systems areas to participate in discussion on the next call